

the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Export-Import Bank (EXIMBANK) from providing any assistance to countries that subsidize their steel industries. The Steel Financing Fairness Act also instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to reduce America's contribution to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by a prorated share of the IMF's assistance to countries that subsidize their steel industries.

No one can doubt that the United States steel industry is in crisis. Approximately 15 million tons of flat-rolled capability (20 percent of the existing domestic capacity base at the start of 2000) was closed in the 18 months from September 2000 to December 2001. The decline of the steel industry has a human cost: in just the last five years, 30,000 Americans once productively employed in the steel industry have joined the ranks of the unemployed.

One of the problems facing America's domestic steel industry is that it must compete with foreign industries that receive subsidies from their governments. Some of these subsidies are explicitly intended to provide these companies with a non-market advantage over American steel producers. The U.S. Government further compounds the damage caused by these subsidies by forcing the domestic steel producers to support their major competitors through taxpayer-funded programs.

For example, according to the most recent figures available, the eight countries with the greatest EXIMBANK exposure are all among the top ten exporters of steel and/or steel products to the United States. In fact, EXIMBANK has provided over \$250 billion of U.S. taxpayer support to these countries.

Meanwhile, OPIC has provided over \$3 billion of the taxpayers' money to seven of the top ten leading steel exporters. Thus, the American taxpayer has provided at least \$253 billion worth of support to the countries that are the leading competitors of the domestic steel industry. This does not count the funds provided these countries by the IMF. Since money is fungible, the practical effect of providing aid to countries which practice industrial policy is to free up resources these governments can use to further subsidize their steel industries. Thus, taxpayer dollars sent to foreign governments and industries can benefit foreign steel manufacturers even if American taxpayer money is not sent to directly benefit those industries.

However, hard as it may be to believe, organizations funded by American taxpayers actually use American tax dollars to directly assist foreign steel producers! For example, among the projects funded by EXIMBANK in recent years is an \$18 million loan guarantee to expand steel manufacturing in Red China.

Ironically, many of the supporters of these foreign giveaways claim to be promoters of free trade. This claim makes as much sense as a supporter of higher taxes and spending claiming to be a fiscally conservative supporter of limited government. Free trade is the peaceful exchange of goods and services across borders unhampered by government interference. Taxing American workers to support their overseas competitors is not free trade. Instead, it is corporatism designed to benefit certain politically powerful interests at the expense of American entrepreneurs and workers.

I have no doubt that America's steel industry can out-compete the steel industry of any

country if allowed to compete on a level playing field. Unfortunately, due in part to government policy, today's playing field is in no way level. Congress must end this economically destructive, immoral, and unconstitutional policy of forcing owners and workers in the domestic steel industry to subsidize their competitors. I therefore call upon my colleagues to cosponsor the Steel Financing Fairness Act.

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#### GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet for his efforts promoting dialogue to bring peace to Tibetan lands and an end to oppression. His presence here on Capitol Hill today should be a reminder to all—that dialogue makes firm the roots of peace and without it tyranny takes hold.

His Holiness is a figure of pure inspiration. He speaks on love, war, peace, hate, economics and other subjects, but he continually comes back to individual responsibility. The individual is the root, the base, the foundation of family, community, society, and country, and all things good must begin with the individual. There is much good each American can do to promote world peace if we take to heart the Dalai Lama's teaching.

I would like to commemorate the Dalai Lama for his continued pursuit of peace in Tibet, the Middle East, and other war-torn places around the globe, and for the goodness that he imbues in all of us. He challenges us to search for the better, and in that search, we inspire others. This body politic must recommit itself to the pursuit of peace at home and abroad.

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#### HONORING SELMA FISCH

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very dear friend of mine, Selma Fisch, who despite being born in August celebrates her 70th birthday on September 13 because she was characteristically too busy last month.

Mrs. Fisch was born Selma Schenker on August 11, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York. At sixteen years old, she and her family moved to California and settled in Boyle Heights, an area that my family is very familiar with.

Soon after graduating from Roosevelt High School, she met and married her husband of 51 years, Len Fisch.

Selma and Len have three children—Laura Anne, William Daryl, and Lisa Kennedy. Over the years her family has grown and prospered and she is now the proud grandmother of six granddaughters and four grandsons.

In 1972, she and her husband Len started a wholesale clothing company, The Clothing Game, on Santee Street in Los Angeles.

A few years later, they bought and developed their first property on nearby Maple Ave-

nue. Originally built to house The Clothing Game, the property was instead redeveloped into six individual clothing stores. The ownership of this building began their successful career as full time property managers. Their foresight and influence helped produce the now nationally famous "Fashion Alley", spanning Maple Avenue and Santee Street.

Throughout the 80's and 90's, Selma and Len continued to buy and develop prime properties throughout the Los Angeles Garment District.

During these years the area experienced such a boom that local officials and the Los Angeles Police Department struggled to provide adequate services. In response to the area's growing needs, Selma, in conjunction with other property owners, formed the Santee-Maple Alley Association to provide additional maintenance and safety officers throughout the Alley area.

In 1991, working closely with my former State Assembly office and the office of the 9th Council District, Selma was instrumental in obtaining a pedestrian crosswalk for a very busy area of the Alley.

Over the years, she has continued to work to ensure that the area remains attractive to consumers by resurfacing the alley hardscape, replacing area storm drains, adding attractive alley banners, and increasing the number of maintenance workers and security officers.

Selma has been a member of various women's political groups, such as AIPAC and WINPAC, which serves to better the United States' international relationship with Israel, and is currently a member of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, it is my greatest pleasure to honor Selma Fisch for her years of service to our community, and to wish her a very happy 70th birthday.

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#### SEPTEMBER 11—A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR HEROES

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, not all American heroes make headlines. In fact, most don't. They don't seek the spotlight and they don't need slaps on the back. American heroes go to work every morning, do a good job and provide for their families.

We celebrate our heroes on Sept. 11, just as we mourn the innocent victims of that day.

Sept. 11 marks a time when Americans grieve and remember our terrible losses. But it's also a time when we celebrate the patriotism, courage and valor of public servants and extraordinary citizens.

Heroism manifested itself that day in people from all walks of life. Travelers flying from New Jersey to California said goodbye to their loved ones, prayed together and one said, "Let's roll!" Hundreds knowingly sacrificed their lives so that hundreds more in our nation's capital could live.

Police and firefighters in New York City ran up the stairs of the twin towers. Looking to save lives, they lost their own.

Today, we honor our heroes, those who perished in the line of duty, and those who proudly serve us today.